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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2000, and in view of the Advisory Action mailed April 24, 2006, the Attorney for the Assignee submits the present amendments and remarks. Claims 20-22 and 24-29 are amended, and claim 23 is cancelled by the present response. Accordingly, claims 20-22 and 24-29 remain pending in the present application. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee are concurrently presented with this amendment and response. The present amendment and response is believed to traverse all of the prior Office Action rejections, and allowance of the pending claims is kindly requested.

The Advisory Action maintained the Office Action indefiniteness rejection of claims 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The Advisory Action suggested that the word "system" be removed from the claims. Continuation sheet, lines 2-3. Assignee has amended the claims in accordance with this suggestion, and clarified that claims 20-22 and 24-29 are directed to a "strap and patch combination." The present amendment is believed to traverse the indefiniteness rejection.

Furthermore, the Advisory Action maintained the Office Action rejection of claims 20-29. The Advisory Action stated that the Assignee's prior amendments submitted in the Response dated April 24, 2006 were not entered since they allegedly raised new issues requiring further consideration and/or search; and were not deemed to place the application in better condition by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. The Assignee's prior amendments and remarks submitted in the Response

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dated April 24, 2006 are incorporated into the present response, and the present response includes additional amendments to independent claim 20 clarifying the scope of the claimed invention.

The additional amendment to independent claim 20 incorporates the element of claim 23. Accordingly, claim 23 has been cancelled. The element of former claim 23, now incorporated into claim 20, is neither disclosed or suggested by the cited references. In particular, neither *Bullock* (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,802) nor *Blatt* (U.S. Patent No. 4,264,251) disclose or teach a strap and patch combination, wherein the second layer of the strap comprises "a plurality of strands of yarn, wherein the yarn has an elongation characteristic ranging from about 2.5 percent to about 4.7 percent before breaking and a creep of less than about 2 percent after elongation." Moreover, instead of discussing mechanical properties such as elongation and creep for a strap, the other cited reference, *Epstein* (U.S. Patent No. 6,478,229), relates to a RFID-carrying laminated tape. There is no discussion in *Epstein* as to improving the elongation and/or creep in a RFID-carrying laminated tape or in a strap for restraining freight, and therefore the alleged combination of *Bullock* and *Epstein* as described in the prior Office Action does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 20. For at least these reasons, claim 20 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 21-22, and 24-29 are ultimately dependent from claim 20, for which arguments of patentability have been provided above. If the underlying independent claim is allowable over the cited references, then the corresponding dependent claims should also be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 20-22, and 24-29 are pending in the application. The Office Action rejections are believed to be traversed by the present amendment and response, and claims 20-22 and 24-29 should now be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (404) 815-6048 if such contact will facilitate a Notice of Allowance for claims 20-22 and 24-29. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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